

## AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

*New claims 36-39 are added, and claims 13 and 28 are amended. All pending claims are reproduced below.*

1. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method for preparing a job for execution by a batch job execution system in parallel, comprising:

receiving a job from an external source, wherein the job includes a plurality of tasks;

selecting a program, subsequent to receiving the job, which includes a declarative part and a procedural part;

preparing a batch job by associating the selected program with the job; and

transmitting the batch job toward the batch job execution system;

wherein the declarative part schedules a plurality of tasks to be performed, identifies data dependencies between individual tasks, and further includes a description of work to be performed, references to resources needed to perform particular tasks, and delegations of authority to access the resources and perform operations;

wherein the procedural part contains logic enabling the batch job execution system to perform execution of individual tasks separately, in parallel; and

wherein the procedural part does not know about the scheduling contained in the declarative part, but can specify additional steps that must be completed after the procedural part completes before a particular task is considered to have completed.

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the program is selected from a plurality of programs stored in a library, wherein the programs are capable of being executed by the batch job execution system.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of, receiving a signal from the external source designating the program to be selected.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving a first signal from the external source, which identifies the input type of information included in the job;  
receiving a second signal from the external source, which identifies the desired output type of information to be obtained when the job has been executed; and,  
wherein the step of selecting a program is in response to receiving the first and second signal.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
determining the input type information included in the received job;  
receiving a signal from the external source, which identifies the desired output to be obtained when the job has been executed; and,  
wherein the step of selecting a program is in response to the steps of determining and receiving.
- 8.-10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method for preparing and executing a task of a batch job by a batch job execution system, comprising the steps of:  
receiving the task of the batch job which is to be executed by a service provider;  
making a call to start a session with a remote platform, in response to receiving the task;  
making a call to put, subsequent to making a call to start a session, which transfers at least a portion of the information in the task to be executed to the remote platform;  
making a call to convert, subsequent to making a call to put, which instructs the remote platform to perform a function on the information transferred to the remote platform;  
making a call to get, subsequent to making a call to convert, which retrieves the converted information from the remote platform;

repeating each step of making a call to put, convert and get until the task is completed; and,

making a call to end the session with the remote platform;

wherein each of the above steps are performed by the service provider; and

wherein the step of making a call to start a session further comprises creating a unique address which identifies the session; and the step of making a call to end the session terminates the unique address.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the remote platform is operating on a ~~Windows-based~~ machine running a first operating system; and the service provider is operating on a ~~UNIX-based~~ machine running a second operating system.

14.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for preparing a job for execution by a batch job execution system in parallel, comprising:

a client, which is capable of receiving a job from an external source, wherein the job includes a plurality of tasks, wherein the client is for:

selecting a program which comprises a declarative part and a procedural part, wherein the program may be used in executing the job;

preparing a batch job by associating the selected program with the job; and,

transmitting the batch job toward the batch job execution system;

wherein the declarative part schedules a plurality of tasks to be performed, identifies data dependencies between individual tasks, and further includes a description of work to be performed, references to resources needed to perform particular tasks, and delegations of authority to access the resources and perform operations;

wherein the procedural part contains logic enabling the batch job execution system to perform execution of individual tasks separately, in parallel; and

wherein the procedural part does not know about the scheduling contained in the declarative part, but can specify additional steps that must be completed after the procedural part completes before a particular task is considered to have completed.

18.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the program is selected from a plurality of programs stored in a library, which are capable of being executed by the batch job execution system.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the client is further for, receiving a signal from the external source designating the program to be selected.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the client is further for:  
receiving a first signal from the external source which identifies the input type of information included in the job;  
receiving a second signal from the external source which identifies the desired output type of information to be obtained when the job has been executed; and,  
selecting a program based on the first and second signal, which includes information necessary for executing the job.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the client is further for:  
determining the input type information included in the received job;  
receiving a signal from the external source which identifies the desired output to be obtained when the job has been executed; and,  
selecting a program based on input type and the desired output, which includes information necessary for executing the job.

24.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for preparing and executing a task of a batch job by a batch job execution system, comprising:

a service provider, which is capable of receiving the task of the batch job which is to be executed wherein the service provider is for:

making a call to start a session with a remote platform, in response to receiving the task;

making a call to put, subsequent to making a call to start a session, which transfers at least a portion of the information in the task to be executed to the remote platform;

making a call to convert, subsequent to making a call to put, which instructs the remote platform to perform a function on the information transferred to the remote platform;

making a call to get, subsequent to making a call to convert, which retrieves the converted information from the remote platform;

repeating each step of making a call to put, convert and get until the task is completed; and,

making a call to end the session with the remote platform

wherein the making a call to start a session further comprises creating a unique address which identifies the session; and the making a call to end the session terminates the unique address.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the remote platform is operating on a ~~Windows-based machine running a first operating system~~; and the service provider is operating on a ~~UNIX-based machine running a second operating system~~.

29.-35. (Canceled)

36. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the job is a document conversion job.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein one or more tasks are performed by one or more services offered by one or more service providers.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the job is a document conversion job.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein one or more tasks are performed by one or more services offered by one or more service providers.